

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An applet is used to deliver a persistent caching mechanism. An initial package of the applet incorporates a lightweight caching mechanism into its root set of classes. The remainder of the applet are divided into functional modules that can be subsequently downloaded as needed. The initial applet and caching mechanism is packaged and signed in a package using tools and procedures native to each platform; and each functional module is packaged and signed in a generic, platform-independent fashion for verification and loading by any of the various platform-dependent initial applet packages. In this way, the same functional module portions of the applet (which may comprise the bulk of the applet) are cached and loaded in a platform-independent manner without requiring or relying on any caching mechanism built into a platform such as a web browser or other applet execution environment.